

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

On page 13, in the first line, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Claims:~~

### CLAIMS

Claims 1-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A hood, in particular for a clothing item for protective and military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit, said hood comprising:  
a circumferential (peripheral) elastic hem to form a face opening, the face opening being provided for receiving a respirator and the hem abutting the respirator in the use state,  
wherein the side of hem that faces into the face opening is provided with a multiplicity of circumferential sealing elements which are durably conjoined with the hem and are in the form of elastofibers for closeout abutment of the respirator.
23. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements abut the respirator essentially linearly.
24. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements project or protrude from the hem.
25. (New) The hood according to claim 24, wherein the sealing elements project or protrude from the hem by not less than 0.25 mm, preferably not less than 0.4 mm.
26. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are secured to the hem by stitching, interweaving, adhering, stapling or welding.
27. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are each configured as a sealing ring, as a sealing lip or as a sealing protrusion.

28. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are thread, ligament-, string- or strip- shaped or webbed- or honeycomb-shaped.
29. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the individual sealing elements are in an essentially parallel arrangement.
30. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the individual sealing elements form a honeycomblike construction.
31. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the cross-sectional thickness of the sealing elements is not less than 1/4 of the cross-sectional thickness of the hem.
32. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the elasticity of the sealing elements corresponds at least essentially to the elasticity of the hem.
33. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements have a relative elastic extensibility, based on their original length, of not less than 30 %.
34. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the material of which the sealing elements consist has, at 25 °C, a modulus of elasticity in stretching in the range of from  $5 \cdot 10^5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$  to  $9 \cdot 10^6 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$ .
35. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the hood including the face opening comprises, on the side portion of face opening, a fastener.

36. (New) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the hood is fully or partially lined on its inside surface with an inside material, the inside material comprising a material selected from the group consisting of: (i) an adsorption-capable material on the basis of activated carbon, and (ii) a water-vapor-pervious, but gas-imperious barrier layer preventing or retarding the passage of harmful gases and liquids.
37. (New) A clothing item, in particular for protective and/or military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit or the like, comprising a hood as defined in claim 22.
38. (New) The clothing item according to claim 37, wherein the clothing item is fully or partially lined on its inside surface with an inside material, the inside material comprising a material selected from the group consisting of: (i) an adsorption-capable material on the basis of activated carbon, and (ii) a water-vapor-pervious, but gas-imperious barrier layer preventing or retarding the passage of harmful gases and liquids.
39. (New) A clothing item, in particular for protective and military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit or the like, said clothing item comprising:  
at least one opening for a body part, such as a hand, arm, foot, leg or head, having a circumferential elastic hem to form this opening, the opening being provided for receiving a further clothing item or an equipment article and the hem abutting the further clothing item or the equipment article in the use state,  
wherein the side of the hem that faces the further clothing item or the equipment article and faces into the opening is provided with a multiplicity of circumferential sealing elements which are durably conjoined with the hem and are in the form of elastofibers for closeout abutment of the further clothing item or equipment article.

40. (New) A method for closing out the transition between a portion of a clothing item on the one hand and a further clothing item or equipment article on the other hand by using an elastic hem, comprising the step of:
- forming a hem that faces the further clothing item or the equipment article, said hem being provided with a multiplicity of circumferential sealing elements which are durably conjoined with the hem and are in the form of elastofibers for closeout abutment of the further clothing item or equipment article.
41. (New) The method according to claim 40 for closing out the transition between a hood and a respirator.